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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

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MEMORANDUM

EL SALVADOR: The Role of Roberto D'Aubuisson

Former Army Major Roberto D'Aubuisson has been an articulate and charismatic spokesman for the far right in El Salvador since leaving active service after the reformist coup on 15 October 1979. A protege of "Cholo" Medrano, the ultra-rightist former chief of the National Guard, D'Aubuisson has served as principal henchman for wealthy landowners and as a coordinator of the right-wing death squads that have murdered several thousand suspected leftists and leftist sympathizers during the past year.

While relatively intelligent, D'Aubuisson is egocentric, reckless, and perhaps mentally unstable. The philosophy he publicly espouses calls for the physical elimination of El Salvador's leftist opposition, which he defines as anyone not supportive of the traditional status quo. His hatred of those he suspects of harboring leftist sympathies motivated his visits to the US last spring, during which he condemned the Carter administration's policy toward El Salvador. After his US visa was cancelled, D'Aubuisson traveled throughout Latin America seeking military and political support for his Broad National Front--an ultra-conservative group of wealthy Salvadorans.

This memorandum was requested by the National Security Advisor to the President. It was prepared by [REDACTED] Office of Political Analysis.

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